

September 21, 2010



just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

FY2011 Budget and Millage Rates

\$1.07 billion budget approved with no increase in tax rate

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board approved final millage rates for Fiscal Year 2011 (Oct. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011) at a public hearing on September 21. Staff recommended, and the board formally concurred with, no increase over FY2010 tax rates. The agency's budget is developed annually through an open and public process, including review by the Governor's Office, the Florida Legislature and the Department of Environmental Protection.

- The Governing Board directed staff to build the FY2011 budget around a "continuation millage rate" or **no** tax increase.
- Due to changes in property values, the approved budget reflects a \$60.9 million reduction in property tax revenues, in comparison with FY2010.
- Through conservative fiscal and strategic planning, the approved budget continues to meet vital flood protection, water supply and environmental restoration needs without increasing the tax rates paid by South Floridians. The SFWMD has not raised its tax rates in over 12 years.
- Constantly reassessing operating costs and proposed projects ensure that every taxpayer dollar goes directly to support mission-critical functions.
 - Since 2008, the District achieved more than \$10.8 million in savings by reducing costs for fleet management, training, travel, energy use and other operational and administrative functions.
- The approved budget of \$1.07 billion includes key projects to benefit restoration and enhance flood control operations including:
 - \$197.4 million for the initial acquisition of strategic lands south of Lake Okeechobee for Everglades restoration purposes
 - \$113 million for the continued construction of stormwater treatment areas to further improve the quality of water flowing into the Everglades
 - \$62.6 million for refurbishment of the regional flood control network of 2,600 miles of canals and levees
 - \$13.4 million for continued construction of the C-111 Spreader Canal to restore Florida Bay and the Everglades
 - \$15 million for ongoing construction of the Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area to remove phosphorus and improve water quality
- The SFWMD annual budget is funded by a combination of ad valorem (property) taxes and other sources, such as federal, state and local revenue; licenses; permit fees; grants; agricultural taxes; investment income; and bond proceeds. About 37 percent of the total FY2011 budget comes from property taxes.
- The approved millage rates, unchanged from FY2010, represent 62.4 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value in 15 of the District's 16 counties (the Okeechobee Basin). For Collier County and mainland Monroe County (the Big Cypress Basin), the millage rates represent 48.14 cents per thousand dollars.



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